

Statement on Signing the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Amendments of 1993

March 4, 1993

Today I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 920, the “Emergency Unemployment Compensation Amendments of 1993.” This legislation will provide critical assistance to the unemployed and their families by extending the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program—which is scheduled to expire March 6—through October 2, 1993. In addition, the legislation includes an innovative worker profiling program to encourage States to use the Unemployment Insurance system to link permanently displaced workers to reemployment services early in their period of unemployment and facilitate their transition to new jobs.

With the EUC program due to expire this Saturday, I commend the Congress for its swift action to ensure that there will be continued help for millions of jobless Americans who want to work to support their families but cannot find jobs. I believe that, as a Nation, we have a moral obligation, as well as an economic interest, to help these families stay afloat while they attempt to find jobs.

While there have been recent signs of improvement in the economy, this improvement has regrettably not extended to the area of employment. The unemployment rate has been over 7 percent for 14 consecutive months and the current rate is higher than the rate that existed when the EUC program was originally enacted. Moreover, the current labor market is, in many respects, weaker than it was at what was considered the worst point of the recession. For example, the rates at which the unemployed

are now exhausting their regular State benefits and the average length of time the unemployed are now receiving benefits are significantly higher than they were at the bottom of the recession.

H.R. 920 combines compassion with a healthy dose of common sense. It not only provides extended income support to help the unemployed with grocery bills, mortgages, car and tuition payments, and other expenses, but also offers a means to help target reemployment services to the structurally unemployed so they can get back to work.

Enactment of this bill is an important first step. While there are funds available to pay EUC benefits for a few more weeks, the funds for the balance of the extension are included as part of my economic stimulus package. The EUC extension will help sustain the unemployed until we are successful in creating more jobs. It is therefore also imperative that we now work together to enact quickly the stimulus package, as well as the long-term public investment and deficit reduction proposals I have presented. These actions will ensure strong, sustained economic growth and significantly increase the job opportunities available to the American people.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
March 4, 1993.

NOTE: H.R. 920, approved March 4, was assigned Public Law No. 103–6.

Letter to the Acting Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency on Disaster Assistance for Washington

March 4, 1993

Dear Mr. Tidball:

I have determined that the damage in certain areas of the State of Washington, resulting from severe storms and high winds on January 20–21, 1993, is of sufficient severity and magnitude

to warrant a major disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (“the Stafford Act”). I, therefore, declare that such a major disaster exists in the State of Washington.

In order to provide Federal assistance, you are hereby authorized to allocate from funds available for these purposes, such amounts as you find necessary for Federal disaster assistance and administrative expenses.

You are authorized to provide Public Assistance in the designated areas. Consistent with the requirement that Federal assistance be supplemental, any Federal funds provided under

the Stafford Act for Public Assistance will be limited to 75 percent of the total eligible costs.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON

NOTE: This letter was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary but was not issued as a White House press release.

Letter to Governor Mike Lowry on Disaster Assistance for Washington March 4, 1993

Dear Governor Lowry:

As requested, I have declared a major disaster under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (the Stafford Act) for the State of Washington due to damage resulting from severe storms and high winds on January 20–21, 1993. I have authorized Federal relief and recovery assistance in the affected area.

Public Assistance will be provided. Consistent with the requirement that Federal assistance be supplemental, any Federal funds provided under the Stafford Act for Public Assistance will be limited to 75 percent of the total eligible costs in the designated areas.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (“FEMA”) will coordinate Federal assistance efforts and designate specific areas eligible for such assistance. The Federal Coordinating Officer will be Mr. John Kainrad of FEMA. He will consult with you and assist in the execution of the FEMA-State Disaster Assistance Agreement governing the expenditure of Federal Funds.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON

NOTE: This letter was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary but was not issued as a White House press release.

Nomination for an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia March 4, 1993

The President has nominated Russell F. Canan to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. In doing so, the President discharged his responsibility under local law to select a nominee from a list of candidates originally submitted last year by the District of Columbia Judicial Nominating Commission.

“I was impressed with all of the candidates,” said the President, “but Russ Canan stood out because of his broad support within the District of Columbia legal community, including Mayor Kelly’s personal recommendation, and because

of the impressive track record he has accumulated in 16 years of law practice in Washington. Above all, we heard nothing but the highest praise for Mr. Canan’s professional skills and talents from those who know his work the best: the many judges on the Superior Court before whom he has practiced.”

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.